

Minutes of Tree & Forest Committee Meeting Sept 10, 2020

5:00pm PM at Laston Park Outdoors. Masks were Required.

1. Call to order at 5pm
 - a. Attended by Jim Neureuther, George Kellar, Eammon Coughlin, Bill Carr. Bill was appointed to the Tree Committee in July. Welcome aboard!!
 - b. There have been no scheduled meetings of the Tree Committee since the Feb 19 Meeting due to the shutdown imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic.
2. Approval of Minutes from Feb 19, 2020. The Minutes were approved with Bill abstaining.
3. Treasurer's Report.
 - a. FY 2020 Town Operating Budget. 100.168.5700.020.

FY20 Town Operating Budget Account 100.168.5700.020			
\$ 1,200.00	7/1/2019		Town Funding for FY20 approved at Town Meeting
\$ 1,025.00	6/1/2020	\$ (175.00)	Elhannon Nursery. Tri-Color Beech tree for Laston Park
\$ 647.00	6/1/2020	\$ (378.00)	Zima's Nursery. Larch (Tamarac) & Golden Suncole Honeylocust for Laston
\$ 501.01	6/7/2020	\$ (145.99)	Whitney's Farm Market. Paperbark Maple for Laston
\$ (118.99)	6/11/2020	\$ (620.00)	Berenson & Bloom (mistaken charge that was corrected less \$40)
\$ 461.01	6/18/2020	\$ 580.00	remove Berenson & Bloom (missing \$40 was added to donations account)
\$ -	6/22/2020	\$ (461.01)	Race Mt Tree Service (portion of DED treatment total \$1170)

- b. Donations Acct 180.168.4800.020 (Rev), 180.169.5700.020 Expense. All donations were acknowledged with thank you notes.

\$ 8,397.82	1/14/2019	donation	\$ 100.00	Lillian Fraker CK 4162 PO Box 88, Lanesborough
\$ 8,447.82	1/29/2019	donation	\$ 50.00	Lee & Jo Ann Hauge 4 Catherine St Pittsfield, Ma 01201
\$ 8,472.82	1/29/2019	donation	\$ 25.00	Wendy & Jim Robak 15 Swamp Rd
\$ 8,772.82	2/19/2019	donation	\$ 300.00	Betsy Bean & Don Dormyer to purchase a tree for Laston or Memorial Parks
\$ 8,822.82	2/19/2019	donation	\$ 50.00	Doris Hartheimer donation. PO box 2080, 42 Greylock Estates
\$ 8,872.82	5/13/2019	donation	\$ 50.00	Mary Moesley 25 Balance rock Rd, pittsfield, Ma 01201 443-0382
\$ 7,525.48	6/17/2019	expense	\$ (1,347.34)	Maynard Landscape Trees (Pin Oak, Beech, River Birch, Star Magnolia). See note
\$ 3,685.48	6/24/2019	expense	\$ (3,840.00)	Race Mt Tree Services (prune King Elmer 4/22/2019)
\$ 3,785.48	12/18/2019	donation	\$ 100.00	Lillian Fraker CK 4324 PO Box 271, Lanesborough
\$ 4,035.48	6/7/2020	donation	\$ 250.00	Tom and Lucy Voisin CK 3994 PO Box 433 Lanesborough (paperbark maple tree)
\$ 4,285.48	6/22/2020	donation	\$ 250.00	Patty and George Kellar CK 9984 11 Park Drive Pittsfield 01201 (Tri-Color Beech)
\$ 3,576.49	6/22/2020	expense	\$ (708.99)	Race Mt Tree Services (DED treatment total \$1170)
\$ 3,626.49	8/25/2020	donation	\$ 50.00	Lee & Jo Ann Hauge 4 Catherine St Rt44 Pittsfield, Ma 01201-2250
\$ 3,666.49	8/27/2020	correction	\$ 40.00	Amy credited Donation Acct with the missing \$40 from wrong charge to FY20 Acc
\$ 4,371.49	8/27/2020	transfer	\$ 705.00	Amy transferred \$705 from Grant Acct back to pay for King Elmer DED

- c. Grant Account

Tree Committee Grant Account 240.168.4608.000			
\$ 705.00	8/26/2020		Grant funding from DCR for King Elmer DED maintenance challenge grant
\$ -	8/27/2020	\$ (705.00)	Amy (Town Acct) transfer to Donations acct to pay back King Elmer DED cost

4. Arbor Day 2020 Canceled. Due to the closure of Lanesborough Elementary school in response to the pandemic, no Arbor Day observance was held.
5. Tree City Recertification. We received an email from Mollie Frielicher (DCR) that Lanesborough was awarded a Tree City USA Certification for the 15th consecutive year. The normal award gathering was canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic.
6. Tree Status/Planting/Maintenance
 - a. 4 trees were purchased this past spring from Elhannon Nursery, Zema's Nursery, and Whitney's for planting at the Laston Memorial Park arboretum.
 - i. Suncole' Honey Locust (*Gleditsia Triacanthos* var. *ermis*).
 - ii. Tri-Color Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica* 'Roseomarginata'). Donated by George and Patty Kellar.
 - iii. Paperbark Maple (*Acer Griseum*). Donated by Tom and Lucy Voisin
 - iv. Tamarack (American Larch) (*Larix Laricina*)
 - b. Request made by town clerk (Ruth) to designate a tree in memory of Peter Gallant former selectman. All vote aye that the Tamarack be so designated.
 - c. All trees at Laston Park, Memorial Park, Lanesborough Elementary school, and King Elmer were weeded in May. One trailer load of mulch from Mountain View Farm was spread on trees in June. Galls were hand picked off the pin oak at Laston Park in June.
7. Mid Year eNewsletter.
 - a. The July eNewsletter was submitted for approval and was included in the August version of the Lanesborough online news. The issue covered tree plantings and the DED treatment of King Elmer.
8. King Elmer DED inoculation & Aug Storm Isaias Damage
 - a. Race Mountain Tree Services performed a Dutch Elm Disease (DED) treatment of King Elmer on June 18 & 19. The fungicide treatment cost \$1170 and typically is completed in one day. For reasons uncertain, it took King Elmer 2 whole days to draw up the 70 gal of fungicide. Arborists Ron Yapple of Race Mt and Bob Prescuti from Springside Park thought that the drought conditions at the time likely had caused King Elmer to partially shut down. Sprinklers were set out over 4 days to put more water on the tree and a rain gauge was placed near King Elmer. Since then 9.8" of rain has been recorded over a 12 week span through 9/9/20 for an avg of 0.8" per week. The treatment made front page of the Berkshire Eagle on June 19 and was also in the online iBerkshires. Nature writer Thom Smith also included King Elmer in his NatureWatch Berkshire Eagle column on Sunday 6/28/2020.

- b. The final paperwork for the Mass DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Heritage Tree Care application for: King Elmer was prepared and submitted by the end of June as required. We received \$705 from the grant which was applied to pay for the DED treatment.
- c. On 8/5/20 Jim was notified by King Elmer abutters that a major limb at approx. 75' height had broken during the Tropical Storm Isaias on 8/4. The limb was caught in the canopy out over Summer St. Ron Yapple of Race Mt Tree Services was contacted and came up within a few hours. Bill Gerard the Lanesborough Tree Warden, Bill Decelles the Lanesborough DPW head, Tim Sorrell the Lanesborough Chief of Police all met at King Elmer to assess the situation and offer opinions on whether the road should be closed. It was not. On Fri 8/7/2020 Race Mountain prioritized the King Elmer work and brought down the damaged limb using a 90 ft spider lift. The effort cost \$3,071.20 (\$2,640 charge from Race Mt and \$431.20 charge for local police detail to close Summer St. during the operation.). Jim was informed by Kelli Robbins Lanesborough Town Manager that the town tree budget would pay for the costs. No Tree Committee funds were used. The King Elmer storm damage was again a topic in Thom Smith's NatureWatch column in the Berkshire Eagle on Sunday 8/16/2020.
- d. Jim took the manageable pieces of King Elmer to his house. Small limbs (3") were sawed into disks (approx. 200 qty) to be used as gifts to future 3rd grade classes during Arbor Day celebrations. Jim also sawed larger limbs into 1.5" thick slabs (about 12" diameter). There are approx. 25 qty. The thought is maybe make 3 leg stools which could perhaps be used to raise funds. A larger 16" diam limb was cut to 4 ft length and will be sawed into planks that could be made into a bench.

9. Committee Membership

- a. This is Bill Carr's first official meeting. We thank Bill for his interest in the Tree and Forest Committee. The committee has one vacant position at this time.

10. Other Business

- a. Fall Tree Planting. We have been offered trees from Tim, a friend of Thom Smith, in Florida, Ma. We can obtain 3 or 4 native species that we do not currently have at Laston. A trip to visit Tim is needed to tag trees before leaf drop and then dig and transplant later in Oct when the trees are dormant.
- b. Update Volunteer time (198 hrs YTD) & Expense Items
- c. Next Meeting will be in Oct to plan a tree planting weekend

- d. Meeting adjourned 5:39pm